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APPROVED
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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



IN THIS ISSUE MEET:
"THE KID WHO
COLLECTS SPIDER-MAN"

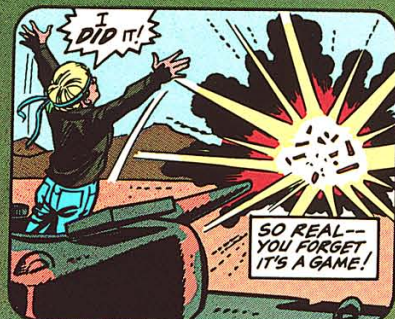
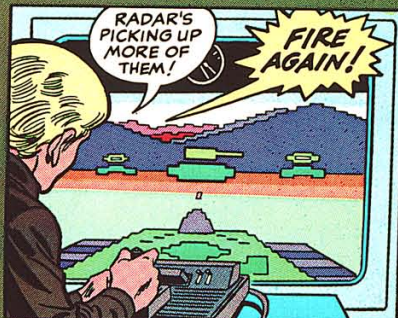
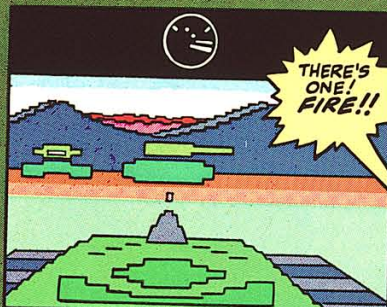
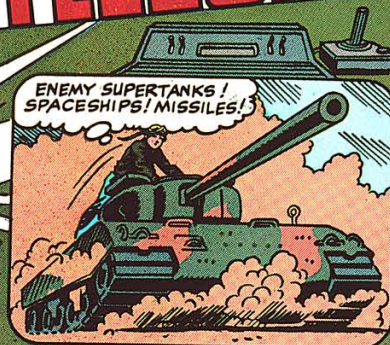


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INSIDE
THE
BATTLEZONE
CARTRIDGE...



BATTLEZONE

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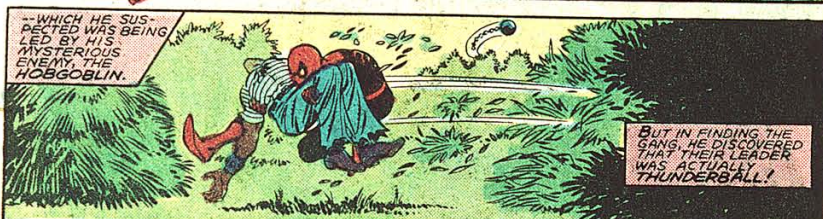


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...EVEN PEOPLE LIKE THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

HE HAD COME TO THIS REMOTE SECTION OF LONG ISLAND IN SEARCH OF A CRIMINAL GANG--



--WHICH HE SUSPECTED WAS BEING LED BY HIS MYSTERIOUS ENEMY, THE HOBGOBLIN.

BUT IN FINDING THE GANG, HE DISCOVERED THAT THEIR LEADER WAS ACTUALLY THUNDERBALL!



DIVING FOR THE BUSHES WAS THE WISEST MOVE YOU'VE MADE, SPIDER-MAN!

IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, YOU WON'T BOTHER ME FURTHER. YOU HAVEN'T A CHANCE AGAINST ME--MY POWER COMES FROM THE QUEEN OF THE ASGARDIAN NORNS!

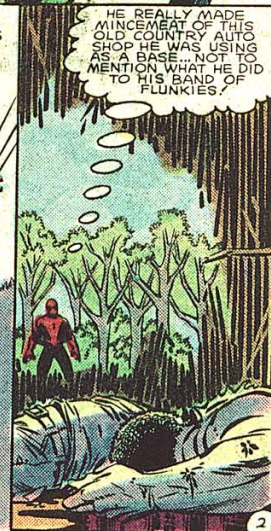


ASGARDIAN NORNS??? DO YOU BELIEVE THAT?

"--BUT SOMETHING'S SUDDENLY MADE THAT BOSS OF YOURS STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT IN THE HULK'S WEIGHT CLASS!"

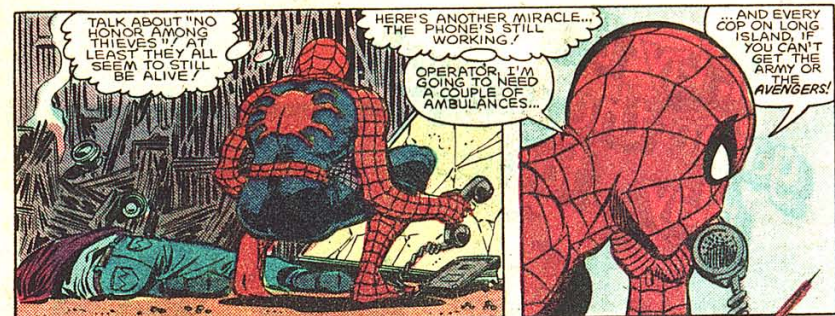
UHHH!

NOPE! ME NEITHER--



HE REALLY MADE MINCEMEAT OF THIS OLD COUNTRY AUTO SHOP HE WAS USING AS A BASE--NOT TO MENTION WHAT HE DID TO HIS BAND OF FLUNKIES.

2



TALK ABOUT "NO HONOR AMONG THIEVES" / AT LEAST THEY ALL SEEM TO STILL BE ALIVE

HERE'S ANOTHER MIRACLE... THE PHONE'S STILL WORKING!

OPERATOR, I'M GOING TO NEED A COUPLE OF AMBULANCES...

...AND EVERY COP ON LONG ISLAND, IF YOU CAN'T GET THE ARMY OR THE AVENGERS!



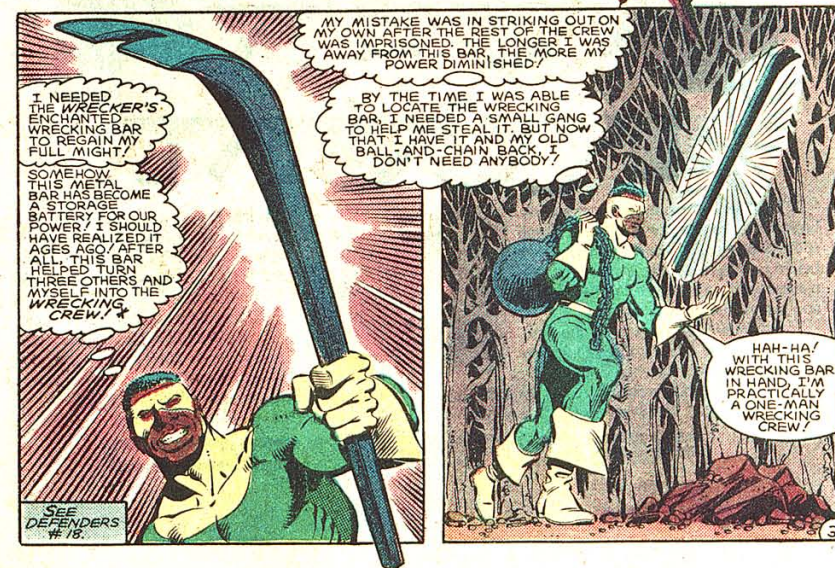
AND, AS SPIDER-MAN CALLS FOR HELP,

I WAS IN THAT UPSTATE LOCK-UP ONLY A FEW DAYS BEFORE BREAKING OUT--

KER-RACK

--BUT IT WAS LONG ENOUGH TO DO SOME THINKING AND FIGURE OUT WHY I'D BECOME SO WEAK THAT IRON MAN WAS ABLE TO BEAT ME WITH A SINGLE BLOW.*

*IRON MAN #171



MY MISTAKE WAS IN STRIKING OUT ON MY OWN AFTER THE REST OF THE CREW WAS IMPRISONED. THE LONGER I WAS AWAY FROM THIS BAR, THE MORE MY POWER DIMINISHED!

I NEEDED THE WRECKER'S ENCHANTED WRECKING BAR TO REGAIN MY FULL MIGHT! SOMEHOW, THIS METAL BAR HAS BECOME A STORAGE CRYPT FOR OUR POWER! I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IT AGES AGO! AFTER ALL, THIS BAR HELPED ME TURN THREE OTHERS AND MYSELF INTO THE WRECKING CREW.*

BY THE TIME I WAS ABLE TO LOCATE THE WRECKING BAR, I NEEDED A SMALL GANG TO HELP ME STEAL IT. BUT NOW THAT I HAVE IT AND MY OLD BALL-AND-CHAIN BACK, I DON'T NEED ANYBODY!

HAH-HA! WITH THIS WRECKING BAR IN HAND, I'M PRACTICALLY A ONE-MAN WRECKING CREW!

SEE DEFENDERS #15.

3

Play the
game the generals
play... for real.



Feel the goose bumps on your neck begin to rise as you take your seat in front of the video monitor. The situation pictured before your eyes is critical. Actual enemy nuclear attack on your most important cities and natural resources has begun.

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But the situation worsens. As you're attempting to rebuild your cities and keep production of goods and



services going, you pick up enemy spies lurking within your midst on your video close-up monitor. Can you effectively deal with them... even as more enemy missiles are approaching?

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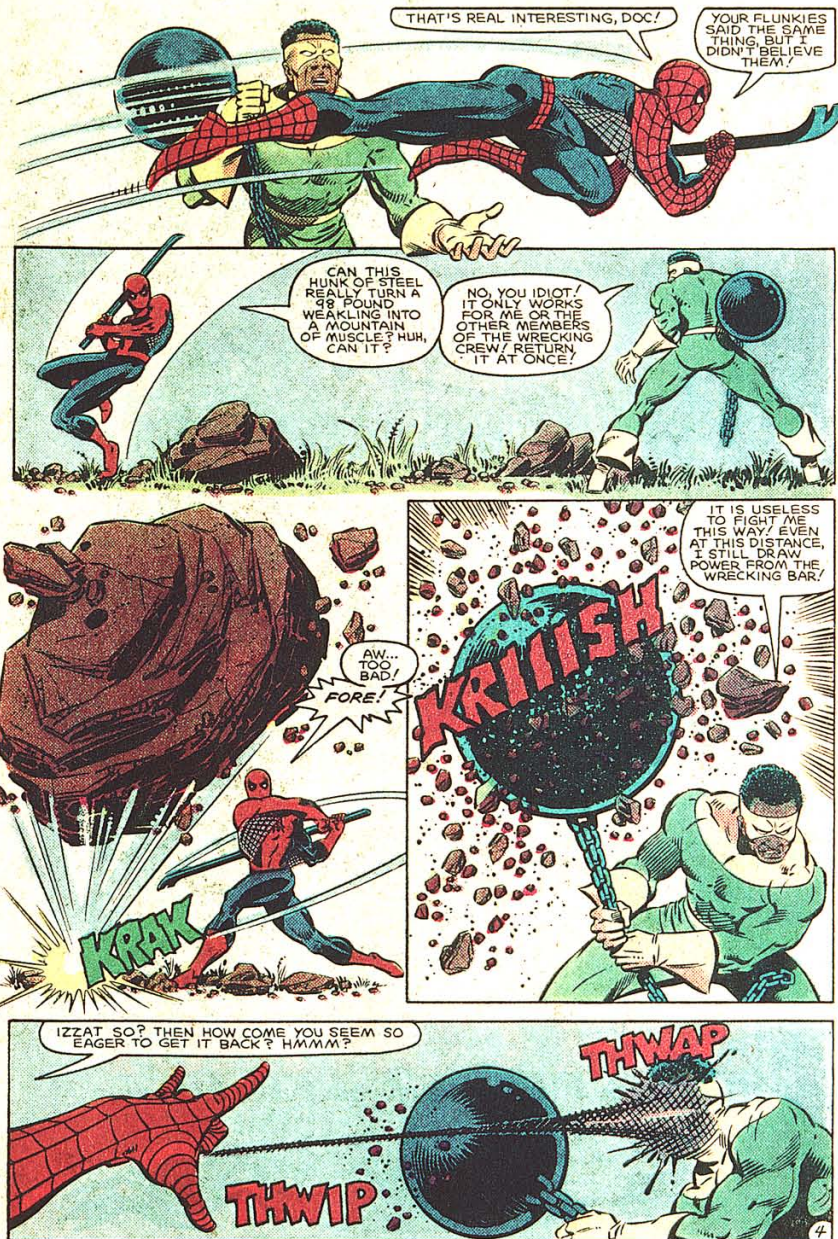
that's so realistic, generals might even play it. Isn't it time you tested your skills?

PROBE 2000
series

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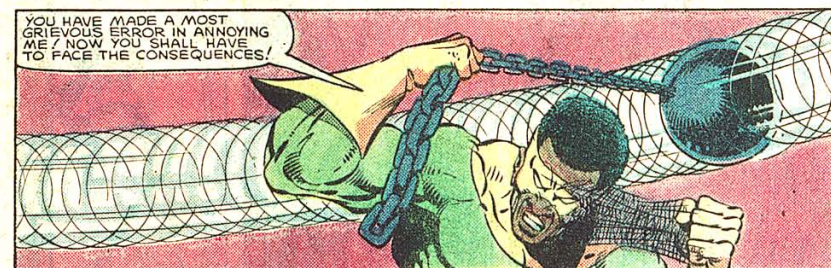
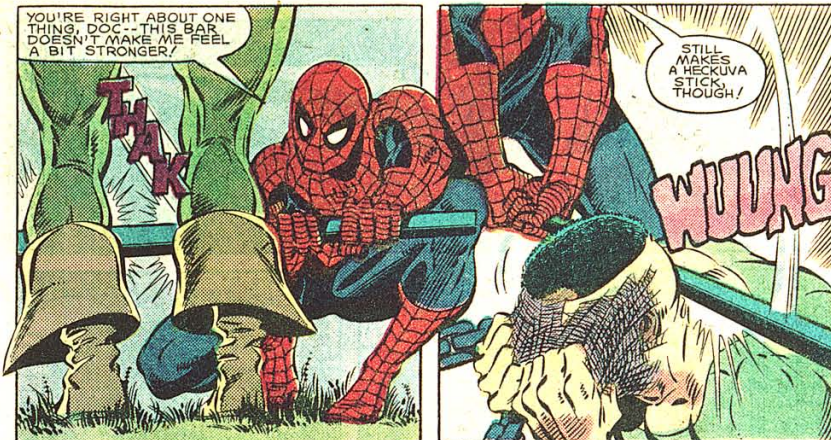


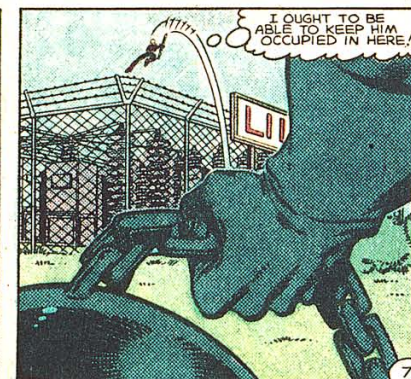
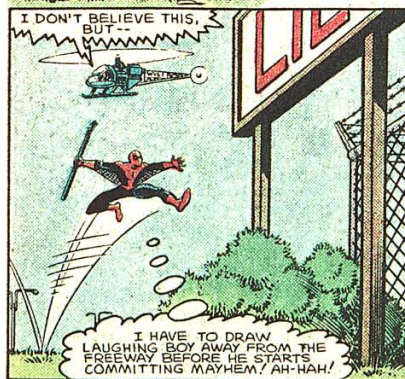
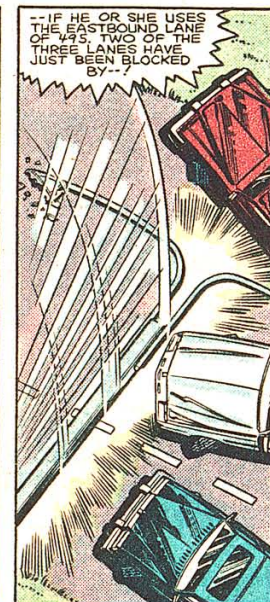
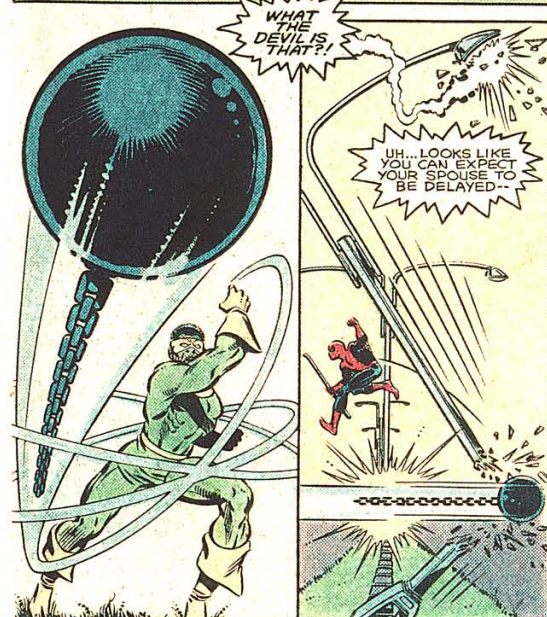
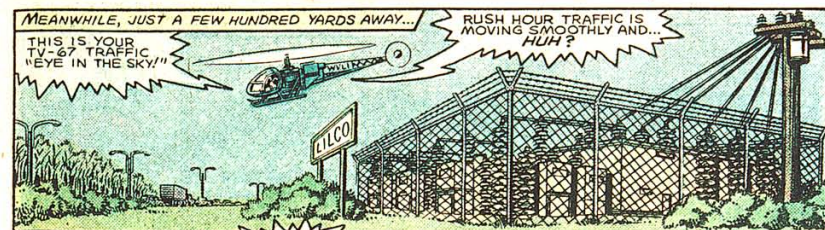
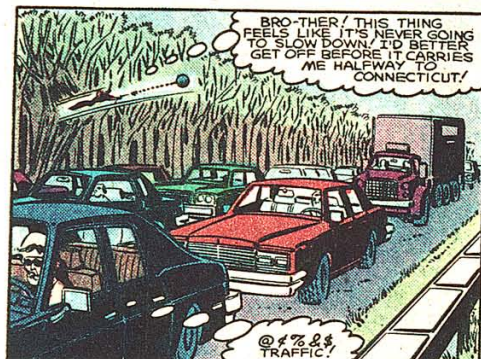
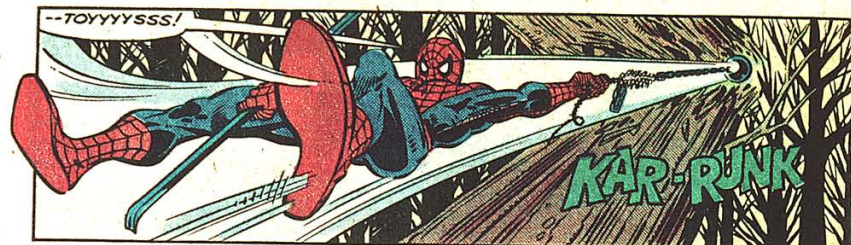
Take Off!

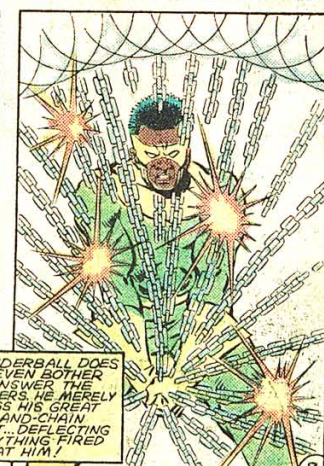
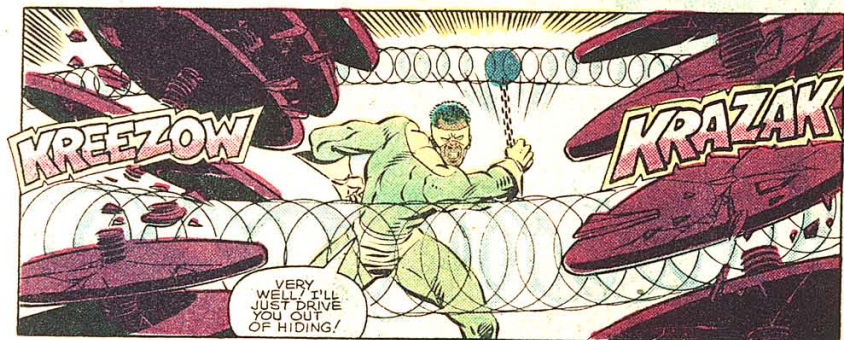
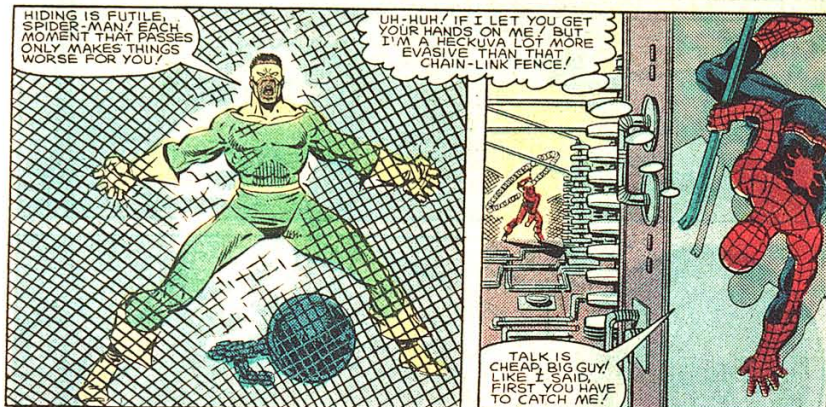
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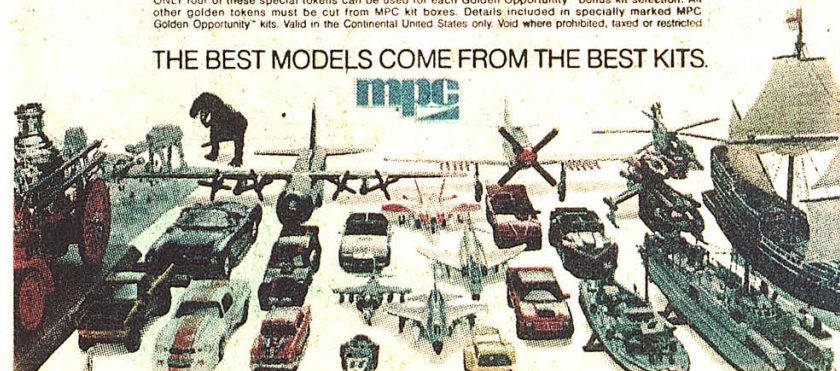
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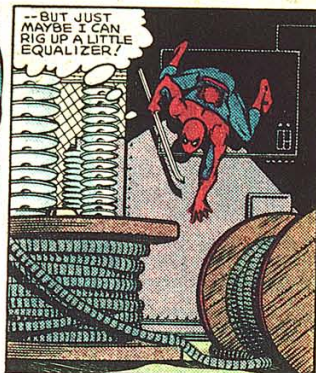
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THE BEST MODELS COME FROM THE BEST KITS.





YEEH! I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT NO ONE THIS SIDE OF THOR COULD STOP THIS GUY! I'M NOWHERE NEAR THAT STRONG--



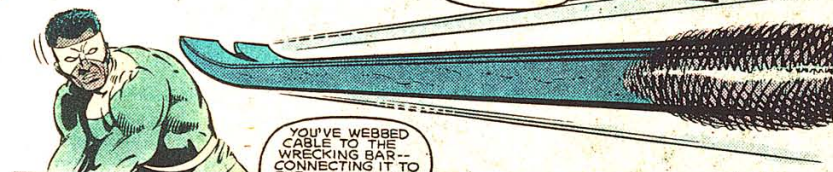
-- BUT JUST MAYBE I CAN RIG UP A LITTLE EQUALIZER!



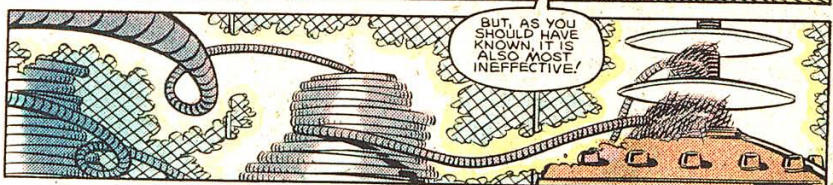
HEY, T-BALL! YOU STILL WANT THIS?

EH?

WELL, YOU CAN HAVE IT!



YOU'VE WEBBED CABLE TO THE WRECKING BAR-- CONNECTING IT TO THE SUBSTATION TRANSFORMERS! GENIUS!



BUT, AS YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN, IT'S ALSO MOST INEFFECTIVE!



AND YOU HAVE MADE YOURSELF A MOST VULNERABLE TARGET!

9

STAR FRONTIERS

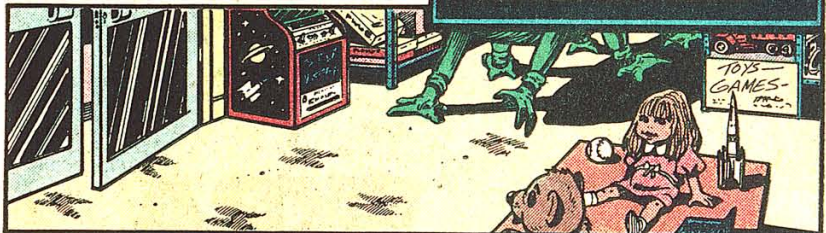


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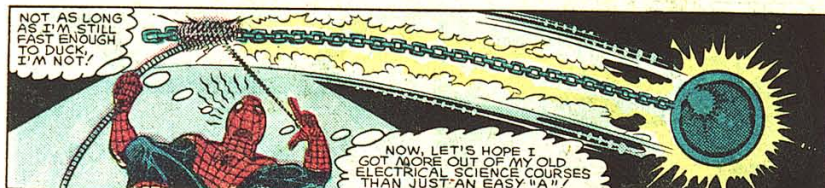
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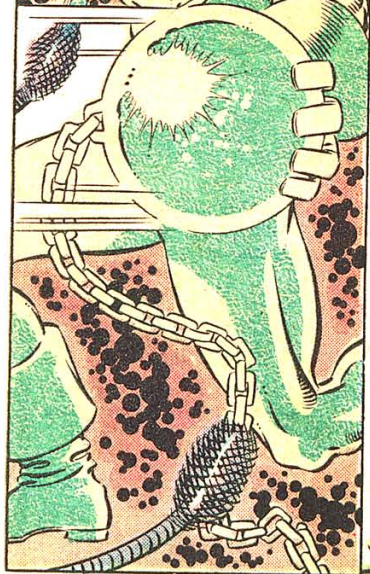
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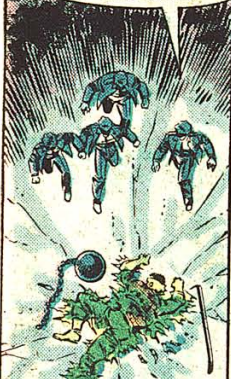


**SKRA
BOOM**



AND THEN, ONCE THE CABLES MELT DOWN, THE CIRCUIT BREAKERS POP, AND THE ONLOOKERS' VISION RETURNS TO NORMAL...

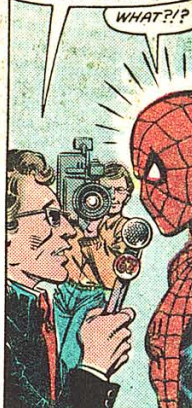
HE'S STILL BREATHIN'! ALL THAT POWER... AND ALL IT DID WAS KNOCK HIM COLD!



SPIDER-MAN! CAN I HAVE A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME I'M FROM TV-67!



THUNDERBALL SHMUNDERBALL! HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE HELPED CAUSE THE WORST TRAFFIC JAM IN THE HISTORY OF EASTERN LONG ISLAND?



YEAH! COULDN'T YOU HAVE STOPPED THAT BIG GUY BEFORE HE BLOCKED THE EXPRESS-WAY?



GRATITUDE... THERE'S NOTHING LIKE IT...



...ESPECIALLY AROUND HERE!



BOY, WHAT A DAY! I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND HOBGOBLIN... I DIDN'T TAKE ANY PICTURES TO SELL THE DAILY BUGLE... ALL I DID WAS SAVE THE WORLD AT LARGE FROM THUNDERBALL!



I GUESS THAT'S NOT TOO BAD DAY'S WORK!



ADMIT IT... WHO BUT SPIDER-MAN COULD SAVE THE DAY AND RIDE OFF INTO THE SUNSET IN A PICKUP TRUCK! WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR BOY? READ ON AND YOU SHALL SEE!

THE KID WHO COLLECTS SPIDER-MAN!

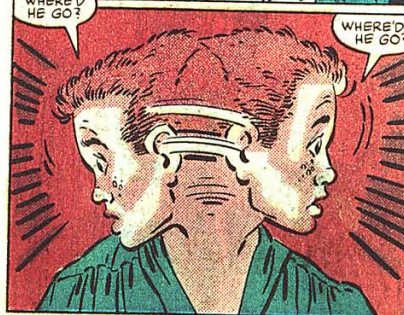
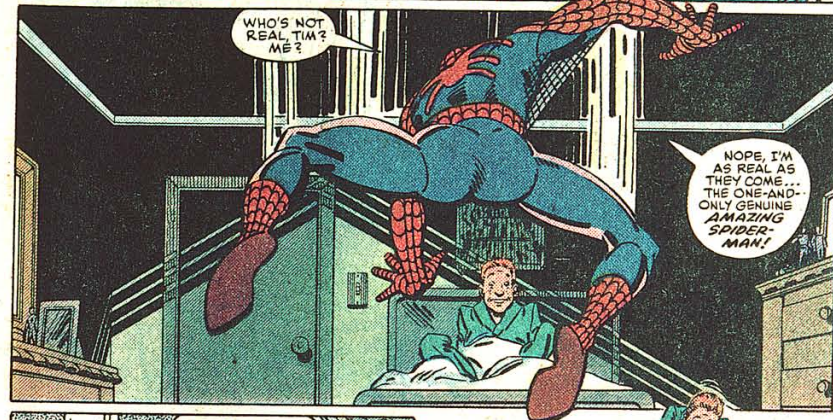
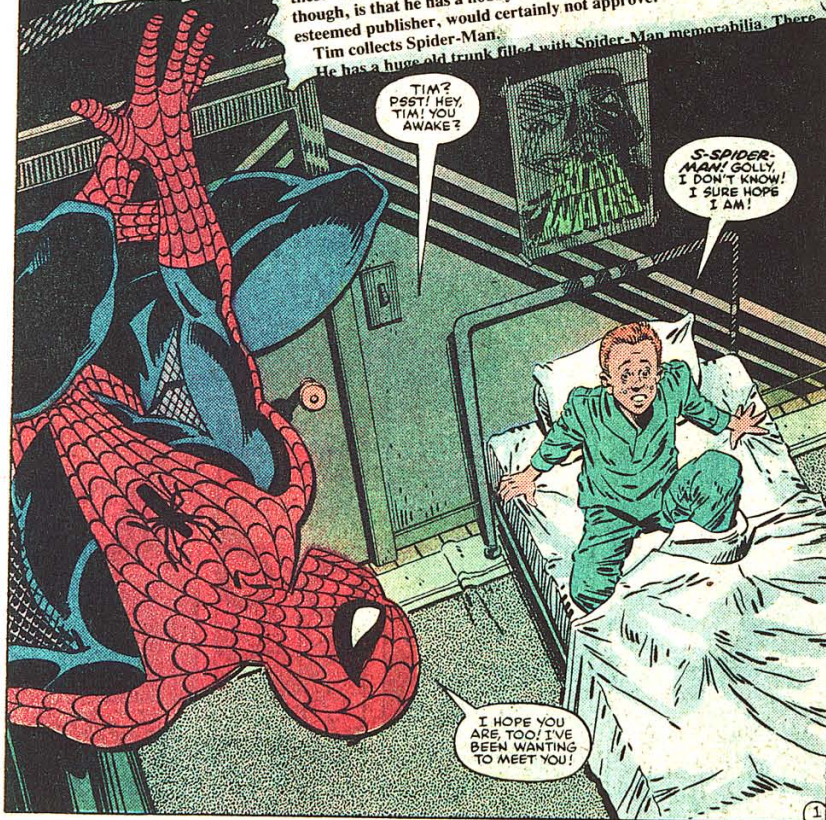
CONOVER'S CORNER
by JACOB CONOVER

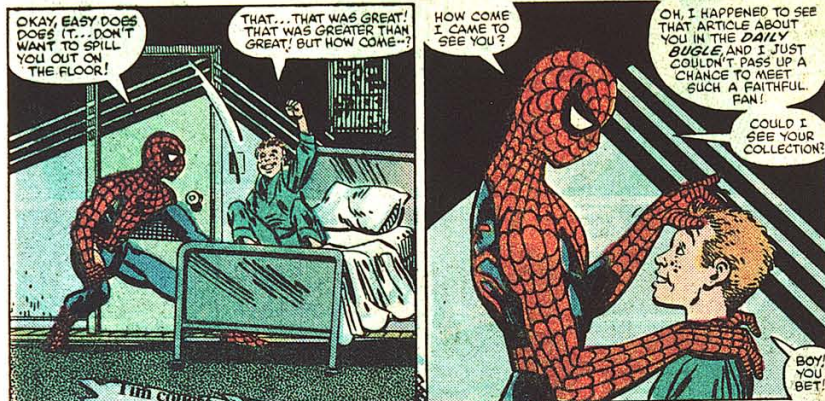


Timothy Harrison is one of those special young men. He's sharp, bright, likable, and nine years old... going on thirty-five. You know the kind I mean. You talk to him for five minutes, and you get the odd feeling that he's already been around the track a few times, despite his youthful appearance.

Tim (he prefers not to be called Timmy) is like a lot of other kids his age. He's seen all the Star Wars movies about a dozen times each. He's a big Mets fan, and he enjoys whatever noise that's passing for music these days. What makes Tim different from most of his classmates, though, is that he has a hobby of which J. Jonah Jameson, this paper's esteemed publisher, would certainly not approve.

Tim collects Spider-Man. He has a huge old trunk filled with Spider-Man memorabilia. There



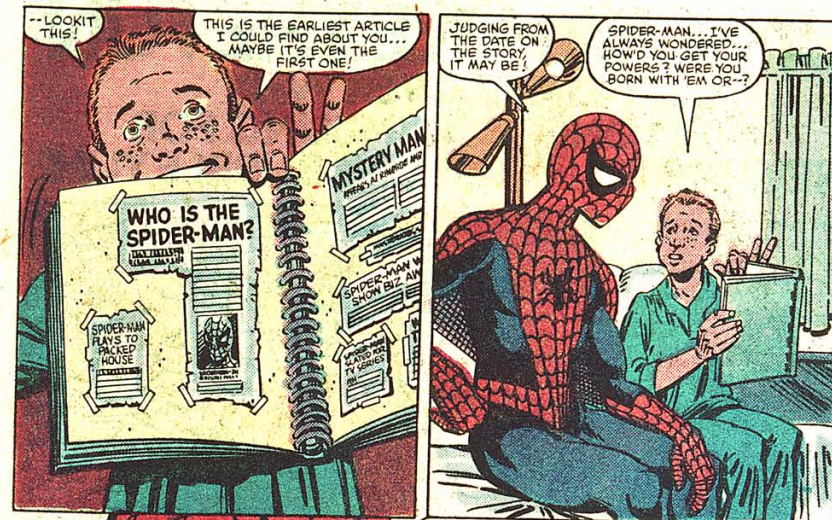
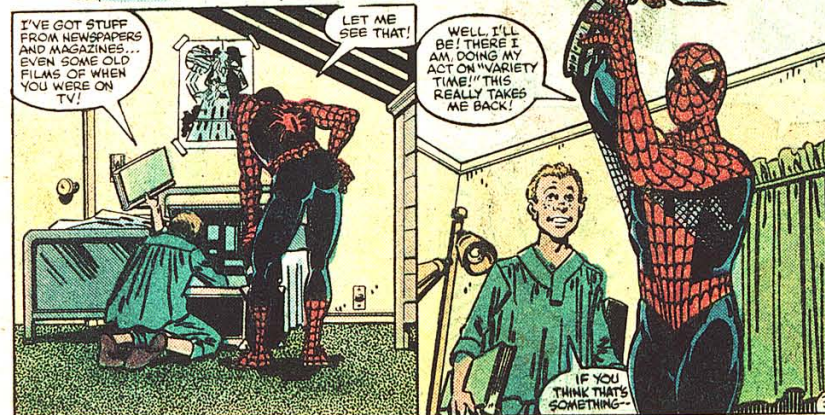


Tim collects Spider-Man. He has a huge old trunk filled with Spider-Man memorabilia. There are eight big scrapbooks overflowing with magazine and newspaper clippings, kinescopes of Spider-Man's rare television appearances, and a handful of souvenirs which can only be called unique. When I paid Tim a visit the other day, he eagerly opened his trunk to answer my typically nosy questions.

"I was real lucky to get some of these clippings," said Tim, flipping through the oldest scrapbook. "I was just a little kid when a lot of these stories were printed. But my grandfather knew a lady who saved old copies of the *Daily Bugle*, and a bunch of other papers, going back a long way. So I was able to get clippings of the earliest stories on Spider-Man that were ever run."

And the Kinescopes?

"They were harder to find," admitted Tim. "Heck, most folks at TV station had practically forgotten that Spider-Man..."



UNSCRAMBLE THE FUN AND DISCOVER WHY EVERYONE'S SCRAMBLING FOR NEW PINK LEMONADE BUBBLE YUM.

Here's a game that's as much fun to play as Bubble Yum is to chew! Just unscramble these six mixed-up words. One letter to each square. (Answers below.)

FOST

□ □ □ □

SOTHOM

□ □ □ □ □ □

IYUJC

□ □ □ □ □

MYMYU

□ □ □ □ □

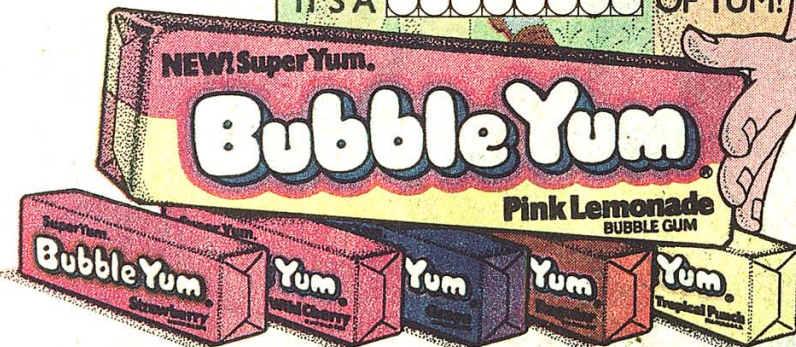
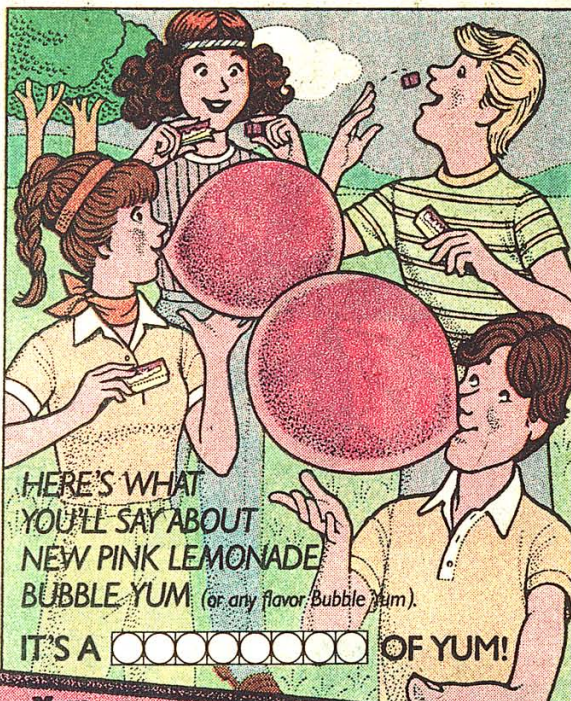
NIPK

□ □ □ □

LUBBESB

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

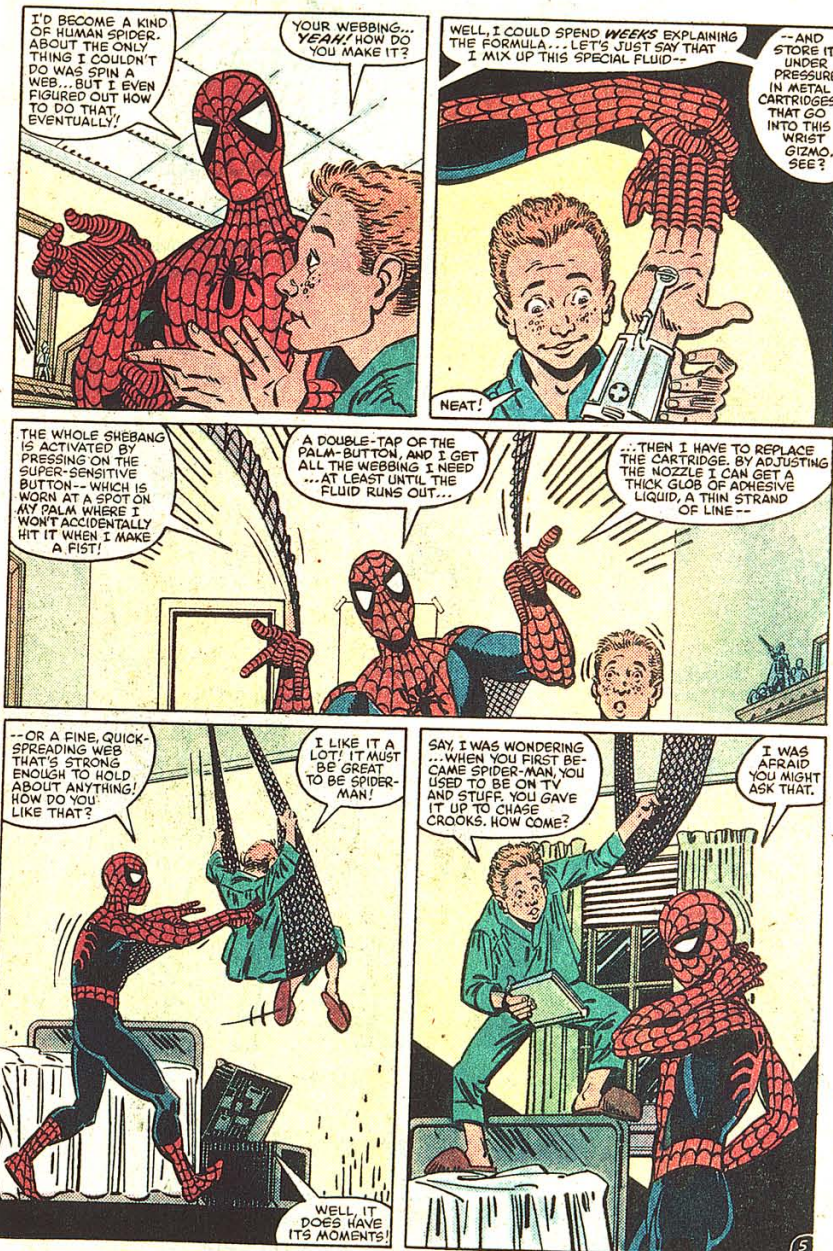
Now unscramble the circled letters to discover the surprise word in this Bubble Yum cartoon.



© Nabisco Brands, Inc. 1993

ANSWERS: SOFT, SMOOTH, JUICY, YUMMY, PINK, BUBBLES. SURPRISE WORD: IT'S A M O U N T I F U L O F Y U M!

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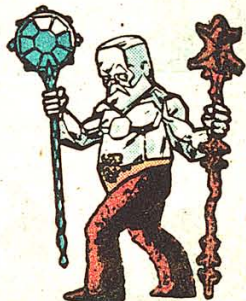
The Saga of **CRYSTAR** **CRYSTAL WARRIOR**

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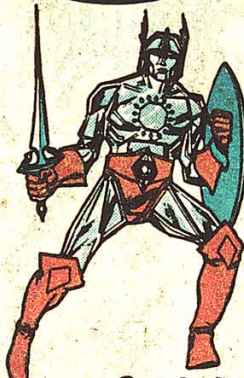
Each figure is fully articulated
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Embodies good vs. evil



Crystar™
Crystal Warrior



Zardeth™
The evil wizard



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Lava Warrior



Warbow™
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The good wizard

Collect them all!

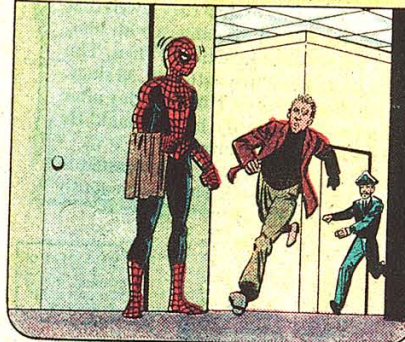
All characters TM and © 1983 Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corp. All rights reserved. © 1983 Remco Toys, Inc. New York, NY 10010

AVAILABLE AT PARTICIPATING



STORES!

"I STARTED OUT TO MAKE MONEY WITH MY POWERS... AND I WASN'T INTERESTED IN MUCH ELSE. ONE DAY, LEAVING A TV STUDIO, I SAW A GUARD CHASING A BURGLAR. I COULD HAVE STOPPED HIM, BUT I DIDN'T. HE GOT AWAY."



"A FEW WEEKS LATER, THE SAME BURGLAR BROKE INTO THE HOME OF... SOME PEOPLE WHO MEANT A LOT TO ME. THE PEOPLE SURPRISED THE BURGLAR. I PULLED A GUN, AND AN INNOCENT MAN DIED."



IF I'D STOPPED THAT BURGLAR WHEN I FIRST HAD THE CHANCE--! BUT NO, ALL I CARED ABOUT THEN WAS MYSELF!



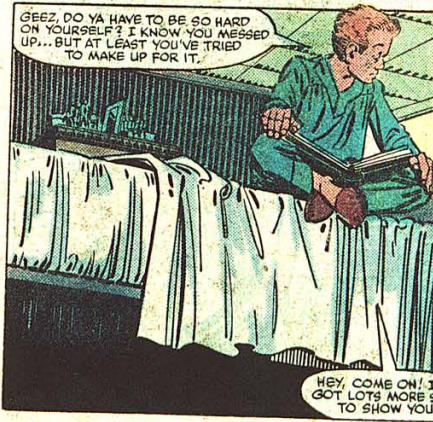
AND THAT'S WHY--?

YEAH, THAT'S WHY I STARTED CHASING CROOKS. I CAUGHT THAT BURGLAR, AND I SWORE THAT NO ONE ELSE WAS GOING TO GET HURT IF I COULD HELP IT!



MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE PICKED SOMEONE ELSE TO START A SCRAP-BOOK ABOUT, TIM.

GEEZ, DO YA HAVE TO BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF? I KNOW YOU MESSED UP... BUT AT LEAST YOU'VE TRIED TO MAKE UP FOR IT.



I'LL BE MAKING UP FOR IT FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

HEY, COME ON! I'VE GOT LOTS MORE STUFF TO SHOW YOU!



NO NEW
SHIS



1st eng. 5-sp.
rem. control
1000. 2-sp.

mins... just like that!"

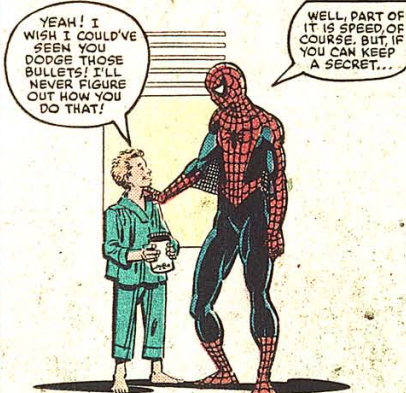
And, of course, there are those souvenirs.

"My cousin Al was on a field trip to some museum in the city, when Spider-Man stopped some guys who were trying to steal rare jewels that were on loan from India or somewhere. Al had his camera with him, and he shot a whole set of slides of Spider-Man in action!" Then, Tim dug into the trunk and pulled out a jar holding five flattened .38 slugs. "I dug these out of the sides of a building in Forest Hills, the day after Spider-Man surprised some hold-up men outside of a branch bank! He moved so fast, they never hit him once!" said Tim proudly.

There were other items in the trunk, but I wasn't as interested in them, as I was in the young man who collected them. Tim was obviously quite an admirer of the one

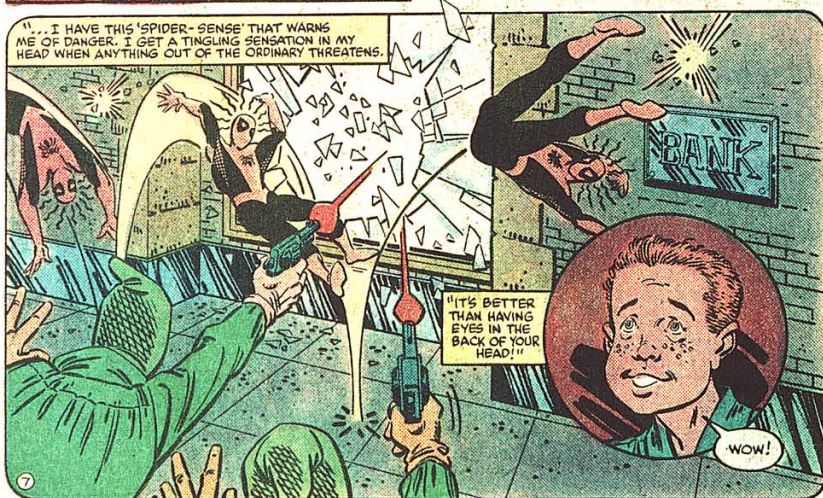


I'LL BE--! YOU ACTUALLY DUG THESE OUT OF THE WALL OF THAT BANK WITH YOUR POCKET KNIFE?



YEAH! I WISH I COULDN'T SEE YOU DODGE THOSE BULLETS! I'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT HOW YOU DO THAT!

WELL, PART OF IT IS SPEED, OF COURSE, BUT IF YOU CAN KEEP A SECRET...



"...I HAVE THIS 'SPIDER-SENSE' THAT WARNS ME OF DANGER. I GET A TINGLING SENSATION IN MY HEAD WHEN ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY THREATENS."

"IT'S BETTER THAN HAVING EYES IN THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD!"

"WOW!"

"Man surprised some hold-up men outside of a branch bank. He moved so fast, they never hit him once!" said Tim proudly. There were other items in the trunk, but I wasn't as interested in them, as I was in the young man who collected them. Tim was obviously quite an admirer of the anonymous, masked man whom our publisher often refers to (under his breath, of course) in terms not suitable for the dom received favorable headlines? "A little," admitted Tim, "but it's given me material for a whole new scrapbook."

AVE ANTENNAS
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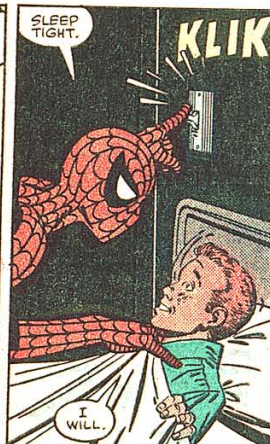


HAN! HERE'S THE RETRACTION FROM THE TIME JAMESON ACCUSED ME OF BEING ELECTRO! BOY HOW HE HATED TO RUN THAT ONE!

HEH-HEH-HEH!



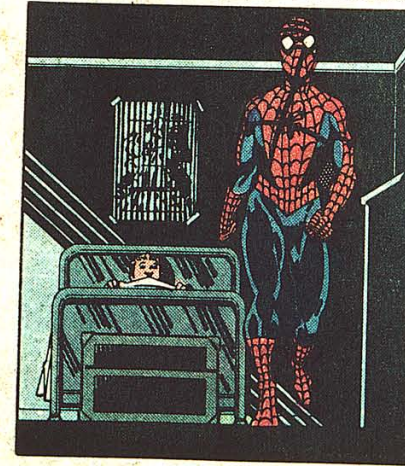
WELL, TIM, I COULD DO THIS ALL NIGHT, BUT I HAVE PLACES TO GO... AND YOU OUGHT TO BE GETTING TO SLEEP! OKAY?



SLEEP TIGHT.

KLIK

I WILL...



SPIDER-MAN?
YES?
WILL YOU TELL ME WHO YOU REALLY ARE?

Bulpen Bulletins

Hi! I'm not Jim Shooter, but Jim is my boss. I'm Lynn, his assistant. My job is to help Jim. And that means trying to help some of the people who call or come to Jim's office with questions or problems. Editors, writers, artists, movie producers, and other important Big Wheels come here to see Jim. I handle as much as I can for him because he's soooo busy! The most important people I help are you, the Marvel Comics fans out there who write or call with all sorts of serious (and sometimes crazy) questions. That's a huge job, so I have an assistant too! Her name is Margaret Clark, and she's terrific! We're here to help. We can tell you the best way to send in your art and writing submissions or help you find your local comics shop. But, we're real busy, so when you call or write to Jim or us, please be as brief as you can. Please clearly state what you want to know. We will find out and get back to you as soon as we can.

We get a lot of requests to give tours. We get so many requests that we couldn't possibly give a tour to everyone who asks - and since it isn't fair to pick just a few, we don't give any! We are working on doing something about that, because, really, we love giving tours. It's fun meeting other people who are as excited about Marvel Comics as we are (and it's one of the few times that Jim unchains us from our desks). But, until then, I thought I'd give you a quickie tour of the Marvel Bulpen.

JACK ABEL'S SHORTS...

Jack Abel is an inker (a great one!) who works in the Bulpen. His "shorts" are about 3 feet wide, have great big red polka dots, and are made of cardboard. Someone took a great big bite on one side! They are hanging at the front of Jack's drawing table where he often sleeps... err... um... works. I'm not certain why somebody stuck those shorts on Jack's table, but they sure look funny.

THE SANCTUARY OF THE ANCIENT ONE

Nearly to Jack reclines paste-up man Morrie Kuramoto, who, according to legend, is the oldest Bulpenner. He'll tell you about the healthful properties of onions, garlic and carrot juice - but see this month's Bulpen Bulletins Special, which appears in Marvel's three Direct-Only titles, *Micronauts*, *Moon Knight*, and *Ka-Zar* where Bulpen Manager Danny Crespi gets Morrie to tell all.

And Danny! Danny Crespi is an adorable cutie (maybe the nicest man in the whole world!) who's taken to wearing suspenders. Poor Danny, girls just love snapping suspenders.

RON'S COMMAND CENTER

Ron Zalma is Danny's assistant manager - it's no easy task to run the Bulpen. Besides all the other important stuff he does, Ron's duties include supervising the operation of the Bulpen's toaster (which he's nicknamed "ROM") and storing volleyball equipment. Yep, we sometimes play volleyball in nearby Madison Park at lunchtime!

PARKER'S ALL-NITE LETTERING SERVICE

Nearly to Ron is Rick Parker - ace letterer and all-around hard worker. This man doesn't ever go home! He's always working in the morning when I come in and even if I leave at 10 p.m. he's still there working. If he does go to sleep, I bet he sleeps with his Crowquill pen clenched tightly in his hand.

DESIGNER'S DEN

The Bulpen has a great design and production team. There's Joe Albello, Barry Shapiro and Robin Brosterman all in a row. They work on the magazines designing layouts and doing paste-ups and after they finish they climb out and dust themselves off.

ALSO IN THE 'PEN...

...are Paul Becton, who does coloring and lettering, George Roussos, cover colorist, John Tartagliano, who does art corrections, and John Morelli, who's a letterer. They call John M. "Squid" because he worked on a ship one summer. He's very muscular (because he lifts weights) and he looks kinda like the Sub-Mariner!

EDITOR'S ROW

Across from the Bulpen is Editor's Row which is growing ever longer. Each office has a personality unique to each team. There are cartoons on the doors, walls and windows. There's all sorts of weird, crazy and fun things going on all the time. But, there are too many of them for me to tell you all about all of them here - and, besides, you hear more about them than the other Bulpeners.

STAT'S R US!

I mustn't forget Robbie Carosella and Harry Candelario who do the photostats and who are a big part of the Marvel Bulpen. Since every single page of every single Marvel Comics must pass through the stat room, their job is critically important. I try to treat them right! And, Robbie manages the Marvel Sottball Team!

OUR 'PEN MOTHER

Who ties it all together? It's our lovely Traffic Manager Virginia Romila. Virginia is the one who encourages the editors to get the creative people to finish their work on time! She also makes sure that all in-house work gets out to the printers. Without Virginia you might have to wait MONTHS between your favorite titles. It's time Virginia gets some fan mail of her own! Thanks, Virginia.

THE THRONE ROOM!

Jim Shooter's office is along Editor's Row, but just a bit away from the Bulpen. He's got a big table for a desk. On his desk is the Bubbiogum Machine that Terry Austin, Lou Sapp and I gave him for Christmas. We do our best to keep it filled with jelly beans for Jim, but Chris Claremont and everyone else keep doing their best to empty it! Jim's desk is surrounded by the piles of mail that he gets everyday. You already know that he reads all his mail. He'd love to answer it all, but of course, it just isn't humanly possible! Jim also has a swell comfy chair that swivels. And since he's away now, I'm sitting in his chair swiveling and writing his Bulpen Bulletin. I wonder if anyone will notice?

Take care,

Lynn E. Cohen

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Watch out this month, true-believers! There's no way we can pick out just one or two books as especially exciting. The assistant editors have been going crazy with their brief thirty days at the helm of Marvel, so all our comics are bound to be... well, unique this month. If you don't want to miss any unheralded magic, charm, or silliness, you'd better buy all our titles! How's that for un-abashed hype?

- ☐ THE THING #7
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #202
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #11
- ☐ DAZLER #30
- ☐ CONAN THE KING #20
- ☐ RETURN OF THE JEDI #4 (Limited Series)
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT SPECIAL EDITION #3
- ☐ MARVEL RETREAD Funnies #1
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #248
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #289
- ☐ THOR #339
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #13
- ☐ MOON KNIGHT #35
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #56

- ☐ IRON MAN #178
- ☐ CRYSTAR #5
- ☐ MAGIK (Ilyana and Storm Limited Series) #2
- ☐ S.H.I.E.L.D. SPECIAL EDITION #2 - Second of two books reprinting STERANKO's stunning S.H.I.E.L.D. stories
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #291
- ☐ AVENGERS #239
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #154
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #159 - Reprinting *Amazing Spider-Man* #21 by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, "Where Flies the Beetle!"
- ☐ X-MEN #177
- ☐ ROM #50
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #101
- ☐ G.I. JOE #19
- ☐ CLOAK & DAGGER #4 (Limited Series)
- ☐ ELEKTRA SAGA #1 (Limited Series)
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #282
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #137 - Aunt May and Franklin Richards
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #6

- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #86
- ☐ DEFENDERS #127
- ☐ STAR WARS #79
- ☐ JACK OF HEARTS #1 (Limited Series)
- ☐ X-MEN CLASSICS #1 (Limited Series) - More classic reprints from ROY THOMAS and NEAL ADAMS.
- ☐ MICRONAUTS SPECIAL EDITION #2 (Limited Edition) - Re-presenting the original MANTLO/GOLDEN sagas.

MARVEL ANNUALS

- ☐ AVENGERS ANNUAL #12 - Guest starring the Inhumans.
- ☐ X-MEN ANNUAL #7
- ☐ MARVEL MAGAZINES
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #95
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #10
- ☐ MARVEL FANFARE #12
- ☐ EPIC COMICS
- ☐ EPIC ILLUSTRATED #21
- ☐ DREADSTAR #7

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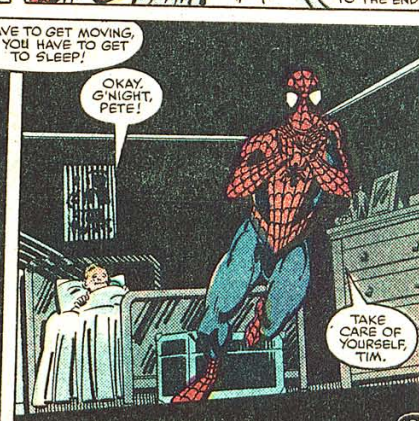
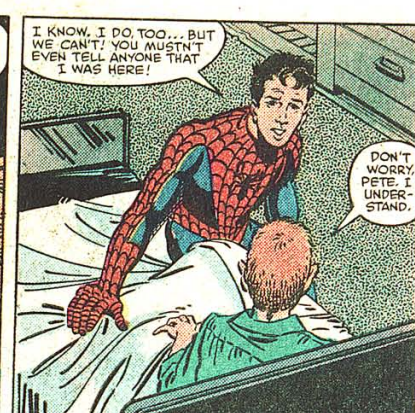
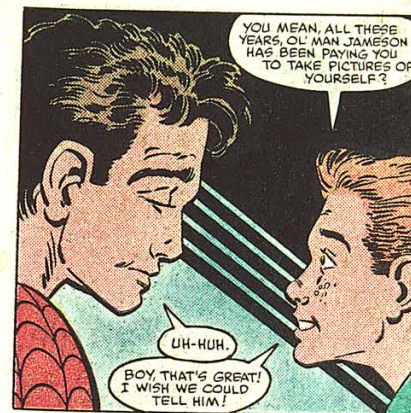
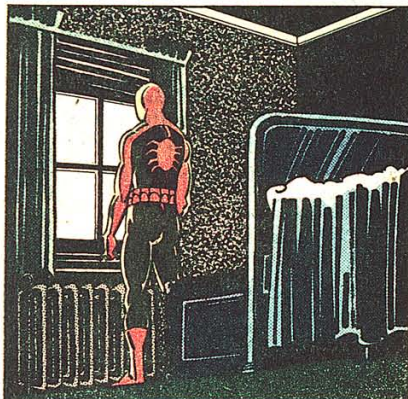
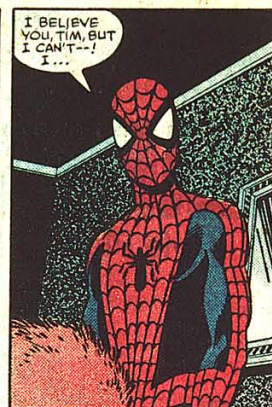
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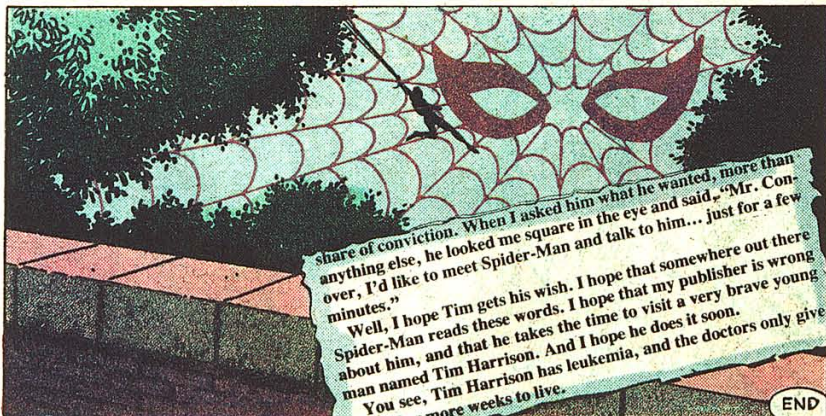
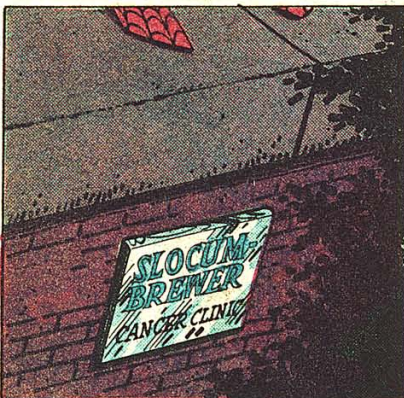
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share of conviction. When I asked him what he wanted, more than anything else, he looked me square in the eye and said, "Mr. Con- over, I'd like to meet Spider-Man and talk to him... just for a few minutes."

Well, I hope Tim gets his wish. I hope that somewhere out there Spider-Man reads these words. I hope that my publisher is wrong about him, and that he takes the time to visit a very brave young man named Tim Harrison. And I hope he does it soon.

You see, Tim Harrison has leukemia, and the doctors only give him a few more weeks to live.

END

THE SPIDER'S WEB

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DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DeNATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

BEFORE WE BEGIN

If you've been following the Bullpen Bulletins, you already know that this is Assistant Editor's Month here at Marvel, when all the editors are away at comics conventions and all the assistants are in charge of the titles they work on. For this issue, with Danny Fingeroth away, I'm in charge of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN and I've prevailed upon Roger Stern to deliver not one, but two stories... with two different sets of artists and two decidedly different dramatic tones. I asked Rog and the rest of my creative crews to come up with a pair of special stories that would contrast each other and bring out two distinct yet important facets of the web-slinger's legend. The guys really came through. "Thunderball" is action from beginning to end - real good action I might add. "Kid", on the other hand, is one of the most touching stories I've ever read. I'm glad Rog did it. I needed some heavy drama to balance out the strange goings-on in PETER PARKER and MARVEL TEAM-UP this month. (And if that's not a teaser, I don't know what is!)

And, in case you're wondering just where the credits for this issue's twin triumphs are, why they're right here (this is my month and I can put 'em anywhere I want, so there!):

AND HE STRIKES LIKE THUNDERBALL

ROGER STERN, writer
JOHN ROMITA, JR., pencil breakdowns
BRETT BREEDING, finishes
DIANA ALBERS, letters
BOB SHAREN, colors
BOB DeNATALE, editor
JIM SHOOTER, editor-in-chief

"THE KID WHO COLLECTS SPIDER-MAN"

ROGER STERN, writer
RON FRENZ, pencil breakdowns
TERRY AUSTIN, finishes
JOE ROSEN, letters
CHRISTIE SCHEEL, colors
BOB DeNATALE, editor
JIM SHOOTER, editor-in-chief

Now without further ado is a representative sampling of the mail on an earlier precedent-shattering issue...

Dear Roger, John, Dave, Joe, Bob, Tom and Jim:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #243 must have been one of the best or worst issues of this comic... ever. I lean towards the former.

Peter Parker leaves school? Wow. That's really a heavy move. However, it is in keeping with the way in which Peter has been maturing lately.

Thank you all for the last three pages of this issue. I've been collecting this comic for eight years, and those pages were probably the most touching in all the issues I'd read.

Judging from the title of next issue, ASM #244 will be just as good.

John Warren
Charleston, WV 25314

Dear Rog and John,

I can't believe you did it! Peter Parker quit school? Never! He'd come so far and

worked so hard - he'd even passed his first-year exams! I never would have thought Pete could quit after that. He was also elated when he discovered that he'd made that "A". Besides, he's not been going to school just for himself... he's been going for his Aunt May and Uncle Ben. Remember how they'd always dreamed that one day he'd become a great scientist?

Sure, Peter Parker has financial problems, but he's always managed to keep them at bay. Throwing away his studies after having come so far is no answer. Pete has never let his problems get to him like this before, except for those occasions when he's considered giving up his identity as Spider-Man. I just can't see Pete giving up so easily. It seems that his main reason for quitting school is because the second year is more demanding than the first. I don't think Pete would ever give up anything so important as his studies... at least not without first starting his second year and seeing if he could make it.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #243 was a good issue... except for one unpleasant option.

John Bush
La Follette, TN 37766

Dear Garig,

I would never have believed that anything could make me like Spider-Man more than I already do. Stories might improve, art might improve, but characterization? Never. How could anyone improve on so well-defined a person as Peter Parker?

Spider-Man, after all, is a real woman's hero: honest, clean, intelligent, caring, romantic... he's even a non-smoker! The clincher was his involvement with photography. So many heroes - although otherwise quite good - are too much the single-minded leaders (i.e. Mr. Fantastic or the Black Panther). His work as a part-time photographer showed how multi-faceted Peter really is.

But to give up graduate school?

That's really heavy. I like it. Even if he eventually returns to school, just to have the option of a life away from academia, of being able to choose his photography over a career in the sciences... well, I'm stunned. Words are too inadequate.

Thelma Spivey
Lexington, KY 40508

Dear Rog and John,

Thanks for the very enjoyable AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #243. The developing plots and subplots have been great over the last few issues.

The scene in which Spider-Man defeated the terrorists in the church was particularly inventive. It showed the same kind of creativity, suspense, intrinsic humor, slickness and hand-clapping heroism which is typical of the movies of Steven Spielberg.

And Peter Parker's reaction - as Spider-Man - when he learned that he'd aged his final was totally accurate... including the leaps and bounds, and the kissing of the professor. As a second-year biology major, currently in the midst of summer research, I can really sympathize with Peter Parker.

Earl Morrison
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Roger and John,

I recently read in MARVEL AGE magazine that John Romita, Jr. will soon be penciling the X-MEN. Is this a permanent assignment? And, if so, who will be taking his place? Right now, I couldn't imagine someone else drawing AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

Dan Porilas
Culver City, CA 90230

Not to worry, Dan. Yes, the X-MEN is a permanent assignment, but it's one which John is assuming in addition to his attention-getting work on SPIDER-MAN. He's just giving up sleeping.

Dear Marvel,

Until a couple of years ago, I moved along on a flowing stream... never really thinking much, never looking at my options, never deciding anything. When I finished junior college, everyone just assumed that I would continue on. I didn't, and that surprised them. I chose not to continue my education, at least not for the present. The decision was not a popular one with my family, but I held out and won. It was never a win-or-lose decision for me - just as it wasn't a win-or-lose option for Peter Parker in SPIDER-MAN #244 - but it was necessary.

Since then, I've had to make other decisions in regard to my personal life. They weren't easy ones either, but I've survived. But now, Peter's landmark decision has made me contemplate another decision that's been staring me in the face. You see, I'm going to have to temporarily give up comics, so I can concentrate on other areas of my life. What with some of the subscriptions I have, this will be a gradual departure, occurring over the next year or so. But you have given me endless hours of entertainment, excitement, wonder and reflection. In case I don't get another chance, I wanted to say thanks... and where better to say it than in one of the titles which first attracted me to this unique medium.

I'll be back, guys. Honest. It may be a while, but I'll be back... and I'll check in on Peter. Count on it.

Chris Hostetter
Akron, PA 17501

Hang tough, Chris. We'll be waiting. You can count on that!

NEXT ISSUE: Hobgoblin, the Kingpin, Harry Osborn, Peter Parker, J. Jonah Jameson, Liz Allen Osborn, Roderick Kingsley, Mary Jane Watson, George Vandergilt, Dr. Maxis, Madrox... all caught up in a web of mystery, extortion and "Secrets!" Some will be revealed in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #249. Be there, and be enlightened!

Psst! Hey! How did I do? How'd I like this issue? Is Danny gonna be proud of me... or am I in a lot of trouble? If you liked this ish - write in quick! If you didn't... keep it to yourself, just this month, okay? Thanks.

Bob DeNatale

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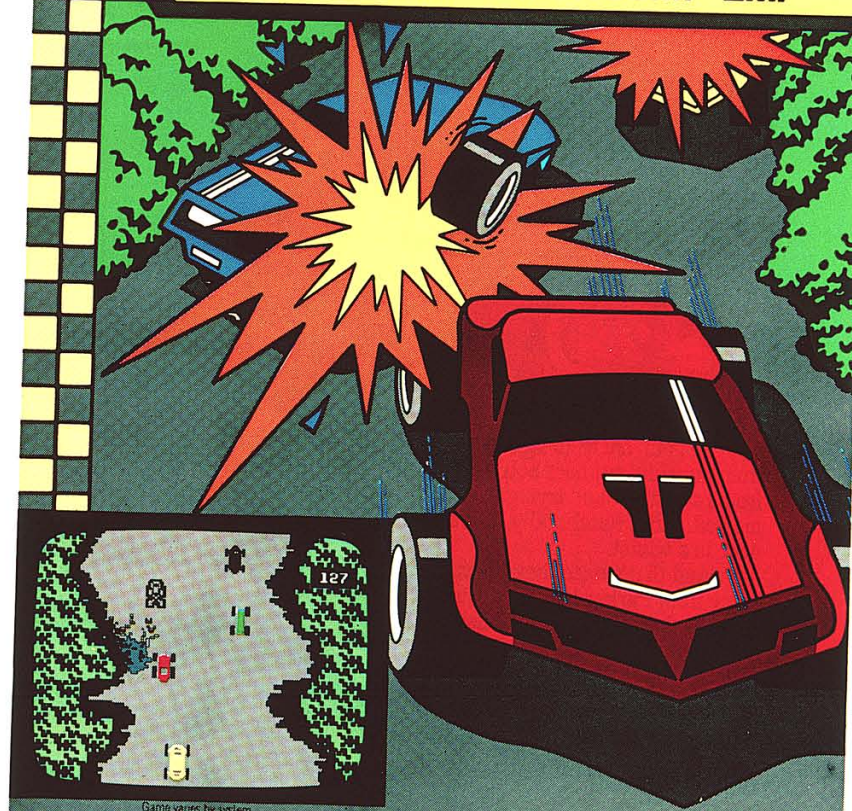
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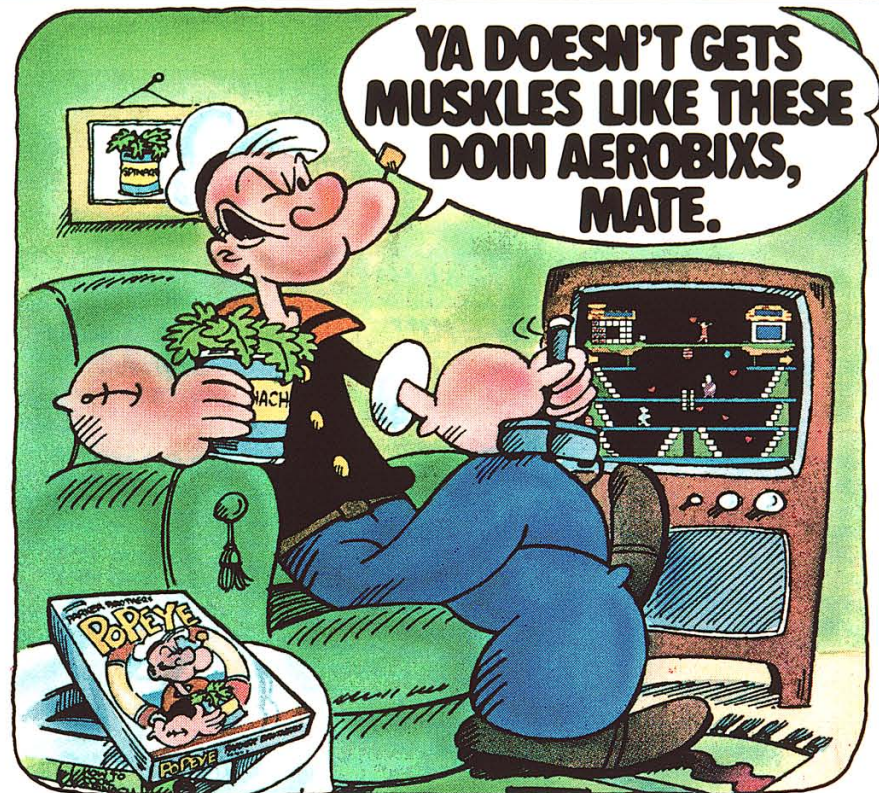
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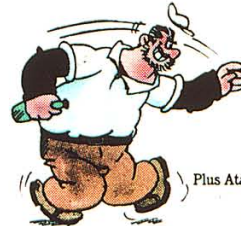
Ya gets 'em from fightin' with big, bad bullies like Brutusk. And from punchin' out beer bottles. And from blasticatin' vultures. And from runnin' around trying to make points with shapely dames like me goil, Olive. Natcherally, it doesn't hoit to down a can o' spinach once in a whilst.

And that's exackly what yas does in me new Popeye home video game from Parker Brothers. Runnin' through three screens at a bliskerin' pace, just like the arcade.

So you's can ferget all them new fandangled body buildin' schemes. Playin' me new video game at home can give ya fabuloussk forearms like me own, in no time at all.



Screen 3 is the most dangeroussk of them all.



PARKER BROTHERS

Popeye is available for Atari 2600, Intellivision, Atari 5200 and ColecoVision Systems;

Plus Atari 400 and 800 and Commodore VIC 20 home computer systems.

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